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GETTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I rise today because I want to get Americans back to work.

When I was a little girl on the farm in Kettle Falls, Washington, my parents used to tell me, "Cathy, life isn't always fair."

But, you see, the difference was the things that weren't fair were outside of my control. Years later, we have a President who likes to talk a lot about fairness, but what he fails to mention is what isn't fair.

It isn't fair that this administration continues to make life harder for Americans all across this country—whether it's paying the bills at the end of the month, higher health care costs, higher gas prices, or an economy that's struggling with the smallest workforce participation rate since 1979. It is unfair for Washington to continue down a path that isn't working.

This week, we are voting to clear the way for the Keystone pipeline. It will create at least 20,000 new jobs from construction alone. It's just one piece of a true all-of-the-above energy plan. Keystone will put people back to work immediately while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and adding billions of dollars to our economy.

It is time for the President to stop talking about fairness and to actually start supporting it, and he can start by signing the Keystone project into law and get Americans to work all across this country.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the growing threats that climate change poses to public health.

Increasingly, severe and frequent weather events and heat waves not only threaten people's health and safety but also jeopardize our food crop production and the availability of clean drinking water. Foodborne illnesses, asthma, and cardiovascular disease are expected to worsen in a changing climate.

Despite these anticipated impacts, however, most American health professionals do not have the tools they need to prepare for the changing needs of their patients, and climate change's threats to human health will only escalate with every day that we fail to take action.

That's why last week I reintroduced the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act, which will help health professionals prepare for and re-

spond to the public health impacts of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the impacts of climate change, especially when it comes to the health of our friends, our neighbors, and our families. I hope we can work together to pass this and other commonsense measures to address the critical issue of changes to our climate.

GETTING RICH OFF MEDICARE

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, some people and companies are getting rich off Medicare.

Washington Post columnist Charles Lane wrote about power wheelchair suppliers who are reimbursed as much as \$5,000 for a basic chair that costs them \$700 and sells at ordinary retail for \$2,500.

In addition, hospitals are charging wildly varying prices for the same procedures. George Washington University Hospital averages \$115,000 for a patient on a ventilator while Providence Hospital in the same city averages \$53,000 for the same service. In St. Augustine, Florida, one hospital typically billed \$40,000 to remove a gallbladder, using minimally invasive surgery, and another hospital in Orange Park, Florida, charged \$91,000. In one hospital in Dallas, the average bill for treating ordinary pneumonia was \$14,610 while another charged \$48,000.

I do not want to see one poor person denied any necessary medical treatment. However, we should not treat Medicare and Medicaid as holy and untouchable and allow many hospitals, medical providers, and suppliers to get filthy rich off government medicine.

LET'S PUT AMERICA TO WORK

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. I rise today to once again urge House leadership and the majority party in the House to refocus on what should be our top priority—jobs and the long-term economic stability of our Nation.

Each day, we report to our constituents that economic growth and putting Americans back to work is job one in Congress; yet very rarely does our agenda reflect that priority in this House. In fact, the request to name conferees to complete the budget process to grow jobs and grow the economy doesn't get heeded over and over again.

We are putting more and more people to work each month, but I have no doubt that we can do better. As I talk to neighbors and friends back home, unemployment remains their top concern. Instead, many in this Chamber are plotting to take the debt ceiling

hostage. We already know the dire consequences from that act.

The bottom line is this: jobs and economic growth are our constituents' top concerns, and they should be ours as well. We can and must do better. Let's put America to work.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I have shadowing me today a girl named Desirae, and she is with me as a foster child. It was one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as a foster mother to 23 great kids. May is Foster Care Month. There are 400,000 children in the United States who need a foster parent. We need more foster parents.

She and I have been talking about the news of the day so far. We talked about the tragedy in Oklahoma and how our former colleague, now-Governor Mary Fallin, is working so beautifully, together with the staff in Oklahoma, to meet the needs of the tragedy that is occurring. We talked about gas prices being \$4.30 a gallon and how building the Keystone pipeline will provide new jobs.

Foster children need love. They need stability. They need to be a part of the fabric of this Nation. Let's make them a priority in this country.

THE DISTURBING SILENCE TO THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. To me, what has been more shocking than the sequester, itself, has been the response to it, or lack thereof, on the part of House leadership.

Are they listening to those on our streets and in our neighborhoods? Maybe the country is simply numbed by its repugnance of this Congress and the last.

The sequester harms the American people, particularly the middle class and our children. My district in Queens, New York, is decidedly and truly middle class; and every day constituents tell me how the sequester is hurting their families and their futures. It will cost America over 750,000 jobs this year, including police, firefighters, public defenders, and border agents.

We need to come to a compromise on a real spending plan that will increase revenue rather than slashing critical programs. The American people need us to speak up for our priorities and our values. The silence is disturbing. The sequester is not okay.

THE IRS SCANDAL

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1